

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00367 230922Z

15 L

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INR-07 SS-15 SP-02 EB-07 PRS-01

NSC-05 CIAE-00 /059 W

----- 065516

R 230754Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1001

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, MU

SUBJECT: FLOATING HOTEL FOR MUSCAT?

REF: LONDON 4332 (NOTAL)

1. SINCE EARLY MARCH STORY HAS CIRCULATED THAT ITALIAN LINER LEONARDO DE VINCI HAS BEEN BOUGHT BY OMANI GROUP FOR SOMETHING UNDER DOLS 2 MILLION AND WILL ARRIVE BY MAY 15 TO SERVE AS FLOATING HOTEL OFF MUSCAT/MATRAH HARBORS. THIS MOVE ORIGINALLY SAID TO BE PRIVATE INITIATIVE OF PROMINENT LOCAL BUSINESSMAN MUHAMMAD ZUBAIR, WHO SINCE NOVEMBER 1974 HAS ALSO BEEN MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

2. MORE RECENTLY, SOME ARE PORTRAYING THIS AS VENTURE IN WHICH OMANGOV ITSELF, OR SULTAN QABOOS WITH PERSONAL FUNDS, ARE ALSO INVOLVED.

3. COMMENT: WHILE ORIGINS AND BACKERS THIS PROJECT REMAIN OBSCURE, SULTAN'S POSITION AS PRIVATELY STATED IS THAT IT IS A PRIVATE VENTURE WITH NO GOVERNMENT FUNDS OR COMMITMENTS. ENTIRE MATTER RAISES EYEBROWS HERE AT THIS TIME MAINLY BECAUSE OF LURKING SUSPECION GOVT FUNDS AT SOME TIME AND IN  
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SOME MANNER WILL BECOME INVOLVED THUS ENGENDERING CRITICISM

ABOUT WHETHER OMANGOV IS SERIOUS ABOUT PUTTING PRESENTLY  
SHAKY FINANCIAL HOUSE IN ORDER.  
WOLLE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CORRUPTION, HOTELS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MUSCAT00367  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750101-0699  
**From:** MUSCAT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750324/aaaaavkm.tel  
**Line Count:** 64  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 LONDON 4332  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

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US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FLOATING HOTEL FOR MUSCAT?  
**TAGS:** EFIN, MU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006